

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for providing audio in an audio/video network, said method comprises:
 - 5 providing an audio signal and a video signal to a first device in the audio/video network; and
 - processing said video signal in a second device.
2. A method for providing audio in an audio/video network as recited in Claim 1, wherein providing an audio signal and a video signal to a first device in the 10 audio/video network comprises:
 - processing said audio signal in said first device; and
 - delivering said video signal from said first device to said second device.
3. A method for providing audio in an audio/video network as recited in Claim 2, wherein processing said audio signal in said first device comprises decoding said 15 audio signal in said first device.
4. A method for providing audio in an audio/video network as recited in Claim 3, wherein said method further comprises storing a decoded audio signal in a first buffer in said first device.
- 20 5. A method for providing audio in an audio/video network as recited in Claim 4, wherein said first device selected from the group consisting of a set top box, an audio/video receiver, and any equivalent computing device(s).

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6. A method for providing audio in an audio/video network as recited in Claim 2, wherein delivering said video signal from said first device to said second device comprises utilizing at least one means for connecting said first device to said second device selected from the group consisting of a USB protocol, an *IEEE 1394* protocol, a RS-232C protocol, a wireless format, DVI, DMI, Cat. 5, telephone line, power line, and an IrDA protocol.

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7. A method for providing audio in an audio/video network as recited in Claim 1, wherein processing said video signal in a second device comprises decoding said video signal in said second device.

10 8. A method for providing audio in an audio/video network as recited in Claim 7, wherein said method further comprises storing a decoded video signal in a second buffer in said second device.

9. A method for providing audio in an audio/video network as recited in Claim 8, wherein said method further comprises synchronizing an output of a first buffer with 15 an output of said second buffer.

10. An audio/video network comprising:
a first device configured to decode an audio signal; and
a second device configured to decode a video signal, said first device in electrical communication with said second device.

20 11. An audio/video network as recited in Claim 10, wherein said first device includes a first decoder configured to decode said audio signal.

12. An audio/video network as recited in Claim 11, wherein said first device further includes a first buffer configured to store a decoded audio signal.

13. An audio/video network as recited in Claim 10, wherein said second device includes a second decoder configured to decode said video signal.

14. An audio/video network as recited in Claim 13, wherein said second device further includes a second buffer configured to store a decoded video signal.

5 15. An audio/video network as recited in Claim 14, further comprising at least one synchronization circuit in electrical communication with a first buffer and said second buffer.

10 16. An audio/video network as recited in Claims 15, wherein at least one means for electrical communication between said first device and said second device selected from the group consisting of a a USB protocol, an *IEEE 1394* protocol, a RS-232C protocol, a wireless format, DVI, DMI, Cat. 5, telephone line, power line, and an IrDA protocol.

15 17. An audio/video system comprises:
a first device, including a standard signal decoder;
a second device, including a high definition signal decoder, said first device in electrical communication with said second device; and
at least one peripheral device in electrical communication with said first device and said second device.

20 18. An audio/video system as recited in Claim 17, wherein said first device further includes a first buffer in electrical communication with said standard signal decoder, said first buffer in electrical communication with said second device.

19. An audio/video system as recited in Claim 18, wherein said second device further includes a second buffer in electrical communication with said high definition signal decoder, said second buffer in electrical communication with said first device, said first buffer and said second buffer further in electrical communication with said peripheral device.

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20. An audio/video system as recited in Claim 19, wherein said peripheral device is selected from the group consisting of an audio/video amplifier, a VCR, a DVD player/recorder, and any other digital audio/video device(s).

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21. An audio/video system as recited in Claim 19 wherein said peripheral device includes a synchronization circuit in electrical communication with said first buffer and said second buffer.

22. An audio/video system as recited in Claim 21, wherein at least one means for electrical communication selected from the group consisting of a a USB protocol, an *IEEE 1394* protocol, a RS-232C protocol, a wireless format, DVI, DMI, Cat. 5, telephone line, power line, and an IrDA protocol.

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